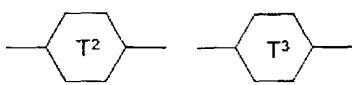


is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or mono-substituted by F

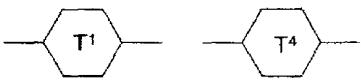
5 r is 1

q, s are each zero or 1, their sum being 1



10 in (XVII), , is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl

15



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, bicyclo-[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl, (1,3)-dioxane-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or mono-substituted by F, (1,3,4)-thiadiazol-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, thiophene-2,5-diyl

20

25 q, s are each zero or 1; their sum being 0 or 1.

Particular preference is given to the following meanings:



in (II), is pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2-fluoropyridine-3,6-diyl or pyrimidine-2,5-diyl

30 Z^1, Z^2 are both H or both F

R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkoxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal $-CH_2-$ groups may be

replaced by $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}-$ and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F

with the proviso that only one of the radicals R^{10} , R^{11} can be hydrogen

5

in (III),  is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2-fluoropyridine-3,6-diyl, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl,

 is cyclohexane-1,4-diyl,

10 Z^1 , Z^2 are both H or both F,
 R^{10} , R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups may be replaced by $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}-$ and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F

15 with the proviso that only one of the radicals R^{10} , R^{11} can be hydrogen.

In (IV),  is pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2-fluoropyridine-3,6-diyl, pyrimidine-

20 2,5-diyl,
 Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , Z^4 are each H
 R^{10} , R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where

25 one or two nonterminal $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups may be replaced by $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})-$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{O}-$ and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F
with the proviso that only one of the radicals R^{10} , R^{11} can be hydrogen.

In (V),  is pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2-fluoropyridine-3,6-diyl, pyrimidine-

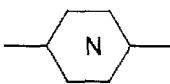
30 2,5-diyl,
 Z^1 , Z^2 , Z^3 , Z^4 are each H
 R^{10} , R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where

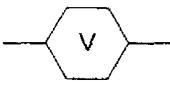
one or two nonterminal -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -CH=CH-, -OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F with the proviso that only one of the radicals R¹⁰, R¹¹ can be hydrogen.

5 In (VI),
 $Z^1, Z^2, Z^3, Z^4, Z^5, Z^6$ one element of this group is F or
 Z^1 and Z^2 = F, Z^3, Z^4, Z^5, Z^6 = H
 Z^3 and Z^4 = F, Z^1, Z^2, Z^5, Z^6 = H
 R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are

10 each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -CH=CH-, -OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F with the proviso that only one of the radicals R¹⁰, R¹¹ can be hydrogen.

15 In (VII),
 Z^1 and Z^2 are both F; Z^3 and Z^4 are both H
 R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -CH=CH-, -OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F with the proviso that only one of the radicals R¹⁰, R¹¹ can be hydrogen.

25 In (VIII),  is pyridine-2,5-diyl, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl

 is phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F,

30 p, q, s are each zero or 1; their sum being zero or 1
 R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -CH=CH-, -OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F with the proviso that only one of the radicals R¹⁰, R¹¹ can be hydrogen.